

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T STATE 205904

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO, SEATO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CENTO REORGANIZATION

REFS: A) ANKARA 7878; B) STATE'S A-8541

1. FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS EXTRACTED FROM REF B, POUCHED TO ANKARA, WHICH SUMMARIZES RESULTS OF RECENT SEATO COUNCIL MEETING. THE MOST IMPORTANT APPROVED BY COUNCIL FOR RE-SHAPING SEATO:

(1) CSI ACTIVITIES: THE PHRASE COUNTER-SUBVERSION AND COUNTER-INSURGENCY (CSI) WILL BE REPLACED BY SECURITY/DEVELOPMENT (S/D) AS A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE PROGRAMS IN THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES. THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF SEATO WILL BE TO ASSIST S/D PROJECTS OF THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES IN THE FIELDS OF INTELLIGENCE AND INSURGENCY ANALYSIS THROUGH PROVISION OF ADVICE AND EXPERTISE.

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(2) MILITARY PLANNING: BECAUSE OF THE VARYING

NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, ALL MILITARY PLANS WILL BE RETAINED BUT WILL EFFECTIVELY BE SHELVED. MOREOVER, ALL CURRENT MILITARY PLANNING ACTIVITIES WILL BE SUSPENDED (AS OF SEPTEMBER 28, 1973) UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE MILITARY ADVISERS DECIDE OTHERWISE. (SUCH A DECISION IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY.) CONSIDERATION OF A CSI PLAN FOR THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE

MILITARY ADVISERS.

(3) MILITARY EXERCISES: THE FREQUENCY OF MARITIME AND COMMAND POST EXERCISES WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE MILITARY ADVISERS AND WILL BE AIMED AT IMPROVING JOINT OPERATIONAL AND S/D TECHNIQUES. (WE EXPECT THAT THE MILITARY ADVISERS WILL ENDEAVOR TO RESCHEDULE PX-49, A NAVAL EXERCISE WHICH WAS POSTPONED DUE TO AN AUSTRALIAN DECISION TO WITHDRAW.)

(4) MILITARY ADVISERS: THEY WILL MEET ONCE A YEAR SEPARATELY FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING. THE NEXT MEETING WILL PROBABLY BE IN SPRING 1974.

(5) SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES: THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER SEATO EFFORT IN CULTURAL AFFAIRS. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WILL BE CONCENTRATED ON S/D RELATED PROJECTS.

(6) INFORMATION OFFICE: THIS OFFICE WILL BE ABOLISHED ALTHOUGH THE INCUMBENT INFORMATION OFFICE DIRECTOR WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMPLETE HIS TOUR. SOME INFORMATION SERVICES AND TRAINING RELATING PRIMARILY TO INFORMATION IN THE S/D FIELD WILL CONTINUE.

(7) ORGANIZATION: THE MILITARY PLANNING OFFICE WILL BE REDUCED IN SIZE AND INTEGRATED INTO THE CIVIL SECRETARIA (A NEW STAFFING PAPER IS TO BE PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BY THE END OF 1973.) THE CHIEF OF THE MILITARY PLANNING OFFICE (WHO IS A MILITARY OFFICER) WILL REPLACE THE RETIRING DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (WHO IS A CIVILIAN); THE FINAL DECISION AS TO WHETHER THIS POSITION WILL BE OCCUPIED BY A CIVILIAN OR A MILITARY MAN WILL BE REVIEWED

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AT THE COMPLETION OF HIS TOUR IN APPROXIMATELY 18 MONTHS. THE NEW SECRETARIAT WILL CONTAIN FOUR OFFICES: SECURITY AFFAIRS (THE MAJOR ONE), SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, ADMINISTRATION, AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

(8) BUDGET: THERE WILL BE A CONSOLIDATED CIVILIAN/ MILITARY BUDGET. THE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES IN BANGKOK WERE DIRECTED BY THE COUNCIL MINISTERS TO CONSIDER AND

AGREE ON A SUITABLE BUDGET-SHARING FORMULA AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE (MADE NECESSARY BY THE FRENCH AND PAKISTANI WITH-
DRAWALS).

2. PLEASE ADVISE IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED. KISSINGER

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